December 2006
Issue 1

Sahtu Regional Newsletter

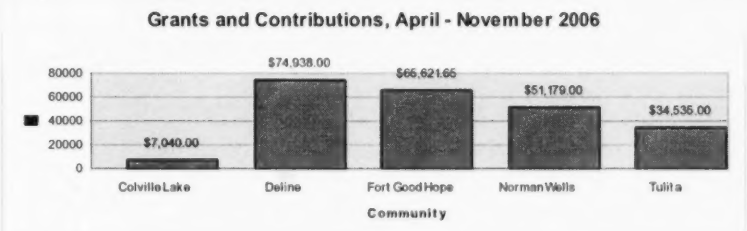
Northwest Territories Industry, Tourism and Investment

Welcome to the first edition of the quarterly newsletter for the Sahtu regional office of Industry, Tourism and Investment

This newsletter will help us to keep everyone informed about what's going on at ITI. In this introductory issue, we'll tell you who we are, what we do, and how we can help you work and do business in the Sahtu. In future issues, we'll tell you about our programs and services, provide updates on activities in our region, and share some success stories from Sahtu businesses. Whether you are a contractor, a trapper, an entrepreneur, or an artist, ITI can help you achieve your goals. We're waiting to hear from you!

Our Vision:
Is to be recognized as a client-focused organization contributing to a vibrant, diverse and sustainable economy for the Northwest Territories.

Our Mission:
In partnership with others, the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment will provide quality programs and services to promote and support Northwest Territories economic prosperity and community self-reliance.



ITI has given out a total of $233,314 in grants and contributions to Sahtu businesses this year to date. These funds were used for everything from completing plans to buying equipment.

Did you know?

There are over 250 businesses in the Sahtu, including artists, sole proprietors, and community corporations. Contact ITI for a Sahtu Business Listing!

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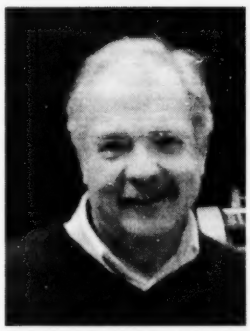
Meet the Sahtu ITI team:

Michael Sanagan, Regional Superintendent michael_sanagan@gov.nt.ca



Last November Michael arrived in Norman Wells from Iqaluit. He previously worked for the GNWT and transferred over to the Nunavut Government in 1999, when he became the Superintendent in the Kitikmeot Region.

Prior to permanently moving to the North in 1993, Michael worked in the venture development sector of a major bank and moved to Ottawa where he worked in credit management section of the Business Development Bank of Canada.

Michael's role is to facilitate and support ITI staff in continued efforts to provide quality services and programs to clients. His focus is to co-ordinate the operations of the office and constantly reviews progress to ensure the regional economy benefits from departmental support.

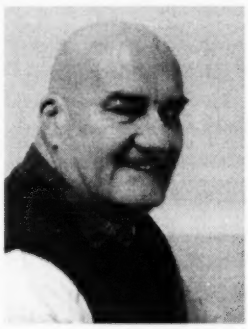
Support for Communities:

So far this year, regional Trade & Investment staff have made 17 visits to Sahtu communities, and have delivered workshops in every community on *ITI Programs and Services* and *Proposal Writing*. Small Business Financial Management workshops and a session on Joint Ventures were also offered this fall by expert consultants and facilitated by ITI.

Support for Artists

The Sahtu has a wealth of talented artists and craftspeople. To support this sector of the economy, ITI has two funding programs for materials and supplies used to create artwork or for sale: Grants for Small Business, and BDF Schedule I – Raw Materials for Traditional Arts & Fine Crafts. Last year, artists and crafters received $58,524 through these programs.

Frank Pope, Regional Petroleum Advisor frank_pope@gov.nt.ca



Frank has been a resident of Norman Wells for the past 25 years, and has resided in the North for over 40 years. He has previous work experience with Federal and Territorial governments, and associated work with oil and gas exploration companies. He was here during the Norman Wells expansion and pipeline projects in the early 1980's. Frank has served in numerous capacities in several northern communities as an elected representative for municipal governments.

The title of Frank's position may be a bit confusing, as he also works with mineral exploration companies and the Mackenzie Gas project, planning for the proposed Mackenzie Gas Pipeline. Frank is available to assist and advise community groups and governments, companies, industry, big and small business. He also works with individuals to help them identify specific training and employment opportunities in the region. In Frank's government role as liaison between industry and the people of the Sahtu, he helps to ensure everyone understands the issues and advises how they can benefit from non-renewable resource development.

Key Steps in Forming Partnerships:

1. Know yourself, your project and its components
2. Know what you want in a partnership – identify potential partners
3. Establish compatibility – match the program mandates of each partner
4. Get the details right – key points for the partnership roles, who will do what, when and how

The secret to making a partnership work is simple:
" Meet commitments and communicate, communicate, communicate!"

Deni Gaccione, Coordinator for Parks & Tourism deni_gaccione@gov.nt.ca

Deni has been a resident of the Sahtu/Norman Wells for the last 23 years. For the first fifteen years he was employed as the Coordinator of Parks and Recreation for the Town of Norman Wells.

As Coordinator of Tourism and Parks, Sahtu Region for the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Deni is responsible for the coordination of department efforts to develop and promote tourism and parks with in the region. If you have any plans to enter the tourism industry or have questions on Park Development, please drop in at our office in the Heritage Hotel and talk to Deni.

Keep your eye out for:

January : Tourism Product Development Regional Conference
March: Tourism Training - Northernmost Host Customer Service

Contribute to the NWT Tourism photo library!

If you have quality photos you would like to share, here's your chance. NWT Tourism will post them on their NEW photo library and give you credit as the photographer. Your photos will be available to media and for other tourism-related, non-commercial use.

Contact Linda Ungar at (867) 873-5007 for more information and to submit photos or send your low-resolution digital images to communications@explorenwt.com.

Kristie Astrom, Manager, Trade & Investment kristie_astrom@gov.nt.ca

Kristie first came North from Vancouver in 2003. She has a degree in business administration, worked for seven years in various capacities for a multi-national engineering corporation, and has owned and operated small businesses in the South. A year spent in the beautiful but remote, isolated community of Wekweti gave her a first-hand understanding of the difficult living and business conditions faced by many NWT residents.

Kristie promotes business planning, good accounting practices, and communication as key components for success. She is working to support Economic Development Officers in each community as an important local resource for all Sahtu residents.

Nazim Awan, Business Development Officer nazim_awan@gov.nt.ca

Nazim brings experience in economic development and small business financing. He has lived in the North for three years. During this time he has acquired knowledge of the incredible opportunities and the various challenges faced by Northerners. Since he started with ITI in October 2005, Nazim has been involved in a number of business development, aboriginal arts and fine crafts promotion, and business skills training projects. He provides counselling and advice for business start-ups; resource identification; financing recommendations; and access to ITI's contribution programs.

Talk to Nazim if you have a business or workshop idea, or just want to discuss economic opportunities in the Sahtu.

Did you know? ITI can provide assistance for short-term business skills training for employees. Contact your Economic Development Officer for more information!

Message to Sahtu residents, entrepreneurs, arts and fine crafts producers, community and aboriginal leadership: "Use the diamonds that exist within our communities - whether natural resources, people or ideas - and transform them into projects and initiatives to further partnerships, community development, and vibrancy."

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Exploration in Our Region – by Frank Pope

This winter will see limited exploration for oil and gas in the region. Talisman Energy are planning a seismic data gathering program in the Deline District around Great Bear Lake, and Kodiak Petroleum are planning a small seismic program in the Grandview Hills area north of Fort Good Hope, close to Little Chicago. Contracts will be awarded fairly soon for the work on these projects and I anticipate northern and local businesses gaining many of the available opportunities as well as having local people filling a high percentage of the jobs.

British Gas Canada are planning to conduct a helicopter supported seismic program in the Kasho Got'ine District in close proximity to Fort Good Hope in early summer next year. Petro-Canada also hope to undertake considerable work during 2007/08 in the Kahso Got'ine District around Colville Lake, as do Husky Energy in the Tulita District.

Mackenzie Gas Project are planning to conduct further geotechnical work on the proposed pipeline right of way, taking soil samples, conducting surveys for facility sites and locating granular material they will require once the project proceeds. EOS Pipelines, in partnership with Mackay Range Development Corporation of Tulita, will be prime contractors for the work. Several other contracts have been awarded to local businesses and quite a few people should gain employment.

Mineral activities continue to be very heavy in the region, several companies worked in the Mackenzie Mountains last summer including Kaska Minerals, Eagle Plains Resources and Pacifica who plan to reopen a mine on the NWT/Yukon border in the Howards Pass area. Diamondex continue exploration in several parts of the Sahtu, and mineral indicators seem to be fairly positive. Patrician Diamonds continue to explore an area northeast of Norman Wells and are currently raising capital for a planned drilling program next spring and summer. Pure Gold Minerals, earning in on properties licensed to DeBeers, continue to explore in the Colville Lake area. Sanatana Diamonds are working in the Kilekale Lake area north of Bear Lake and on properties south and south east of Colville Lake around Lac Belot and Lac DeBois. Several other companies also have prospecting and exploration interests in the Sahtu Region.

Economic Development Contacts:	**Fort Good Hope**: Vivian Edgi, 598-2231	**Deline:** Leonard Kenny, 589-4508
	Tulita: Samuel Fagbemiro, 588-3116	**Sahtu Business Development Centre:**
	Norman Wells/ Colville Lake: tba	(Community Futures) 587-2016

Upcoming Events

Capacity Building for Economic Developers in the Sahtu Region

A regional Community Economic Development workshop will be held **January 22 – 26, 2007**, in Norman Wells. Participants from all five Sahtu communities will have the opportunity to work together while gaining some insight into the work they do as community development practioners.

Minerals, Oil and Gas Information Workshops

Plans are in the works for ITI-led workshops in each of the Sahtu communities, during January, February and early March. These one-day workshops will introduce the basics of oil and gas exploration, explaining such operations as "seismic data collection" and "drilling methods." The mineral component will explain the geology of the region, plus prospecting and exploration methods. Information on these workshops will be advertised in your communities in December. These sessions will be open to community leadership, the general public and school students. These sessions will be delivered by representatives from both industry and government.

ITI Open House

As we head into the festive season, you are invited to join us for conversation and holiday cheer at our Open House: **Friday, December 8, from 2:00 to 4:00**. Refreshments will be served.

Questions or comments on this newsletter? Contact the editor: kristie_astrom@gov.nt.ca 587-2900 ext. 226
The Sahtu office of ITI is located on the first floor of the Heritage Hotel, PO Box 130 Norman Wells, NT X0E 0V0